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those of other denominations; and a moderate degree of charity would have respected the right of private judgment in the Quakers as well as in others, instead of imputing it to the influence of a *coercive discipline, the Bastile of a sect, or the censure of yearly meetings.*

That there is no rule in the Quaker society to restrain its members from soliciting redress of grievances either for themselves or others, is evident from their having generally united in a late application to the legislature for an alteration in the penal laws, and as a proof that the author of the note had no ground for charging them with declining to solicit the government on behalf of others; in gratitude for exclusive benefits conferred by it on themselves; I will take the liberty of mentioning the circumstance of a bill being brought into Parliament several years ago, on the subject of Tithes, which it was apprehended would have an injurious effect on the Quakers in particular, and all the occupiers of land in general. The yearly meeting of that society, then sitting in Dublin, having thought it necessary to present a petition or remonstrance to the house of Commons against the passing of the bill, which being likely to produce the desired effect, a deputation of the members, who had brought forward the bill, waited on the yearly meeting, with a proposal to insert a clause in it that would exempt the Quakers from any

disagreeable effect that might result from it to them.

This offer, the yearly meeting with becoming liberality, and a proper regard to the welfare of those who were not of their community refused to accede to, and continuing their opposition to the bill, it was accordingly thrown out.

There are amongst the Quakers, as amongst various other denominations, individuals of a contracted selfish disposition, who look too much to their own interest, and feel too little for the situation of others, but the society as a body I believe are as liberal in their sentiments, as free from a spirit of intolerance, and would as sincerely rejoice at the removal of every party distinction, and all civil disabilities on the score of religious dissent, as any class of people whatever; although in a general way they decline taking an active part in measures which they may apprehend are connected with, or may lead to political controversy.

As the conductors of the Magazine have given notice at the conclusion of the Retrospect for September, 1809, that they would admit into the pages of their work any remarks thereon, that are written with decorum and moderation, it is presumed they will feel no hesitation to afford a place in their next number to the above observations.* X. Y.

* See a short vindication of the note objected to, at the conclusion of the Retrospect.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

LAW OF NATIONS AT DIFFERENT PERIODS.—A CONTRAST.

SIMILAR causes produce similar effects in distant ages. The phi-

losopher, who accustoms himself to trace causes and effects, and who connects the increasing luxuries of states with their decline in morals,

and their ultimate downfall, will perceive a similarity between the falling off in the morals of the Athenians, as drawn by the lively pen of Bartholomew in his travels of Anacharsis, and some recent changes in the manners of Britons, many of whom do not blush to justify the outrages committed at Copenhagen.

"Some months after the battle of Plataea, Themistocles publicly declared that he had conceived an important project, the success of which would only be secured by the most impenetrable secrecy. The people answered: "Let it be communicated to Aristides, we refer ourselves to him." Themistocles drew the latter aside, and said to him, "The fleet of our allies is now lying without suspicion in the port of Pagasæ; I propose to burn it, and we are masters of Greece." "Athenians," said Aristides, "nothing can be more for your interest than the project of Themistocles; but nothing can be so unjust." "We will hear no more of it," exclaimed the assembly with one voice.

"Some years after, the Samians proposed to the Athenians to violate an article of the treaty entered into with the allies. The people asked the opinion of Aristides: "The proposal of the Samians is unjust," answered he, "but it is to your interest." The people approved the project of the Samians. In a word, after a short interval of time, and under Pericles, the Athenians on more occasions than one had the insolence to avow, *that the only law of nations they were acquainted with, was force.*"

A HINT TO CALUMNIATORS.

As nothing is so easy, or so dangerous, as insidious accusations on the subject of religion, the punishment of death was decreed by the laws of Athens, in certain cases, against the man who should accuse

another of impiety, without being able to convict him.

THE LEARNED BOY.

M. B. when about nine years of age, began to translate "the gospel according to St. John," from the Greek; not having read it in English, as his father, who also was his tutor, chose he should read the Greek only, until he became master of the language. He finished translating it without assistance, before he was ten. He has since learnt the characters and made some progress in Hebrew, he also pursues the study of Botany, and is forming a *Hortus Siccus*. Notwithstanding his genius and acquirements he is modest, and apparently unconscious of these superior advantages.

AFFECTING NARRATIVE.

The following plain, unadorned, and simple appeal to the heart, appeared in the Bath Chronicle, a few weeks ago. It is from a poor old Clergyman of Usk, in Monmouthshire, who says—

"I presume to state the melancholy and distressed circumstances of myself and family, being four in number at home, viz. a wife, a daughter, and a son of the age of 21 years. deficient in his intellects, quite incapable of getting his bread. My yearly income is only 13 guineas, for serving *two churches once a fortnight*, at 10s. 6d. per Sunday, besides teaching a few small children in my own house, which brings me in about 4s. per week; which together with my income, produces upon an average about 9s. per week towards supporting my family, house-rent, taxes, &c.—Clothing we are not able to purchase, and really we are become very bare: were it in my power to purchase second hand clothes, they would do for us, but it is totally out of my power to purchase any; and I must trust in God, who is always better to us than we
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deserve. I have been 44 years in orders; 67 years of age; and through sickness and infirmity hardly able to do duty; and my eyesight fails me very much. I have brought up a large family, viz. seven children. Thank God for them, we have a few potatoes, reared in a farmer's field, which is most of our food; and as an addition to our grief, we are involved in debts which I am not able to liquidate."

A BLIND LABOURER.

While so many mendicants, whose idleness, rather than their infirmities, causes their poverty, are scattered over the country to the increase of crimes, and the undue burthen of the industrious, it is our duty to notice, in terms of high approbation, a very remarkable instance in the neighbourhood of a patient, persevering, and independent disposition, triumphing over one of the most severe calamities that can befall man. *Matthew Loveday* is a labourer now employed in the service of the farmers at Braceborough, near Stamford; he is nearly sixty years of age, and has been totally blind for the last thirty years of his life. The cause of his misfortune is as honourable to him as the conduct he has pursued since it happened. While fighting for his country on board the *Montague*, on the American coast, 5th September, 1781, he was struck by a splinter, which dreadfully wounded his hand, his leg, and actually tore out both his eyes! Nothing now remains to him but the dark, empty, and wounded sockets! Laid motionless on the deck, poor Matthew, in the hurry and bustle of the engagement, was about to be thrown overboard, his shipmates supposing him mortally wounded, from the dreadful appearance of his head. Fortunately, however, for Matthew, he had well discharged his duty, and he now met the reward of

his good conduct—his officer interposed, and would not allow him to be thrown overboard, saying, while there was life there was hope, and that as Matthew had always behaved well, he should have a chance for recovery.—Yet, instead of becoming a burthen to the community in the parish work-house, or travelling over the country as a vagrant, he honourably earns all he receives by working hard for it. His sagacity in performing operations which seem to require the assistance of sight, is truly extraordinary:—he is much employed in threshing, and will thresh out the corn as clean as any man, having the advantage of eyes, which poor Matthew has not. He even threshes clover, to do which requires more than common exactness. At this work he earns 2s. 6d. per pay—not day wages—but by the quantity he threshes.—A more remarkable instance of sagacity, industry, and independent spirit, cannot be produced. We have thus dwelt upon the case, because we think Matthew Loveday's conduct is quite as deserving of honourable mention in a newspaper, as the merits of richer people, which are usually trumpeted forth with approbation quite equal to their importance. We must not omit to mention, that this poor blind labourer supports an aged mother by his industry. He cultivates his garden, and in short is happy and respected.—*Drakard's Stamford News.*

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

A Nobleman of Venice having heard that Cosmode Medici was in possession of the Philosopher's stone, desired to see it: "It is true;" said the Duke, "but my *elixir* is, never to do that by means of another, which I can do myself; not to put off to to-morrow, that which I can do to-day; and not to neglect the smallest things."

OF THE EFFECTS OF INTENSE COLD.

In Iceland and Germany the thermometer frequently falls to zero, which is 32 degrees below the freezing point. At Hudson's Bay it has been known to sink even 50 degrees lower. When stones or metals, which have been exposed to such degrees of cold, are touched by the tongue, or the softer parts of the human body, they absorb the heat from those parts with such rapidity, that the flesh becomes instantly frozen and mortified, and the principle of life in them extinguished. Some French academicians, who made a journey to the northern end of the Baltic, and wintered under the polar circle, found it necessary to use all possible precautions to secure themselves from the dreadful cold which prevailed. They prevented as much as possible the entrance of the external air into their apartments; and if at any time they had occasion to open a window or a door, the humidity of their breath, confined in the air of the house, was condensed and frozen into a shower of snow; their lungs, when they ventured to breathe the cold air, felt as if they were torn asunder; and they often heard the rending of the timber around them, by the expansive power of the frost on the fluid in its pores. In this terrible cold the thermometer fell to 33° below zero. The most intense cold ever known in the neighbourhood of London was on December 25, 1796, when the thermometer indicated 2° below zero.

OF THE IRON MANUFACTORIES.

Some idea of the extent and importance of the iron trade may be conceived from the following account of the iron works in South Wales:—"Merthyr Tydvil was a very inconsiderable village till the year 1755, when the late Mr. Bacon obtained a lease of the iron and coal-mines of a district at least eight

miles long, and four wide, for 99 years. Since then these mines have been leased by him to four distinct companies, and produce to the heirs of Mr. Bacon a clear annual income of ten thousand pounds. The part occupied by Mr. Crawshay, contains now the largest set of iron works in the kingdom. He constantly employs more than two thousand workmen, and pays *weekly* for wages, coal, and other expenses of the works, twenty-five thousand pounds. The number of smelting furnaces belonging to the different companies at Merthyr is about sixteen. Around each of these furnaces are erected forges and rolling-mills, for converting pig into plate and bar iron. These works have conferred so much importance on the neighbourhood, that the obscure village of Merthyr Tydvil has become the largest town in Wales, and contains more than twelve thousand inhabitants."—Abridged from *Malikin's Scenery, &c. of South Wales*.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

PERCEIVING that in the conducting of your Magazine, you allot a portion of it for the publication of detached interesting anecdotes; and having, in the course of my studies, taken notes of many remarkable occurrences in ancient and modern times, I have been induced to transcribe a few, which if you conceive worth inserting, they are freely at your service.

I remain, your obt. servant,

MARCELLUS.

Belfast, March 18, 1812.

After the rebellion in Ireland, A.D. 1641, the forfeitures were so large and numerous, that 1000 acres of land in Ulster were given to any person who subscribed £200; in Connaught, £350; in Munster, 450; and in Leinster, £300.

Some idea may be formed of the wretched and degraded state of Europe in the 15th century, when, from a survey made by Philip the 2d, there appeared to be in his own dominions alone, 312,000 Priests; 200,000 Clerks; and 400,000 of the Monastic order of both sexes: their revenues amounting to the enormous sum of two millions sterling, annually.

It was an inhuman boast of the Duke of Alva, that during his government of the Netherlands, which continued five-years and a half, 18,000 Heretics had suffered by the hands of the executioner, exclusive of those whom he butchered in the cities which he took, and those whom he put to the sword in the field.

In the 14th century, the Greeks were so zealous of their peculiar privileges and ceremonies, that they declared they would rather see the turban of Mahomet, than the Pope's tiara, or a Cardinal's-hat, on the walls of Constantinople.

In the great famine which prevailed in Paris, during its siege in 1594, the city was reduced to such an extremity, that human bones,

ground, and mixed with water into a kind of paste, afforded nourishment, when all other resources failed, to the wretched inhabitants.

It was a precept of Mahomet, that in the disposal of slaves, parents should never be separated from their children. With abundance of reason, may it be remarked, that on reading this, Christians should blush.

The celebrated ancient Athenian court of Areopagus, in order that the Judges might not be biassed by the insinuating eloquence of orators, and that they might deliver their decisions with greater justice and impartiality, always held their sittings in the night.

The Huns, who acted so important and conspicuous a part in the destruction and dismemberment of the Roman Empire, were originally Scythians, who emigrated from the North of China, and settled in Hungary; from whom it derives its name.

The 5th century was remarkable for its darkness and bigotry. It was then deemed an impious heresy to imagine the earth a globe, instead of a flat oblong table, as represented in the Scriptures.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ELLA.

" **C**EASE, little songster, cease thy strain,
To other shades away,
Nor let me hear those notes again,
Wild warbled from the spray.
" Can'st thou, assuming reason's voice,
The stormy passion's quell,
Or bid the lonely breast rejoice,
Where sorrow loves to dwell?
" Can'st thou the troubled bosom cheer,
Where grief hath fix'd its dart,

Or, through the medium of the ear,
Beguile the woe-worn heart?

" Oh! could I from thy artless lay
One moment's joy receive,
I'd listen from the dawn of day,
Till latest close of eve.

" Selected from the feather'd throng,
I'd own thy soothing power,
And catch the music of thy song,
In ev'ry leafy bower.